

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3878

S E C R E T DAKAR 0986

NODIS

PLEASE PASS TO AMEMBASSIES: ABIDJAN, DAR ES SALAAM,
KINSHASA, LIBREVILLE, LUSAKA, MONROVIA, RABAT, TUNIS,
BANGUI, AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, SG

SUBJ: SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 038734

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO FEB 18 DEMARCHE BY CHARGE ON
SUBJECT, SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL
QUESTIONED WHETHER US RECOGNITION OF MPLA WAS IMMINENT
AND INQUIRED INTO REPORTED MPLA OVERTURES TOWARD USG. HE
SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED MPLA WERE
BEST PLACED TO INFLUENCE IT, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER
MINORITY-BASED MPLA WAS IN ANY POSITION TO DO WITHOUT
CUBAN SUPPORT. IN WAKE OF APPARENT MPLA MILITARY VICTORY,
GOS EXPRESSES STRONG DESIRE TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF US INTEN-
TIONS TOWARD MPLA. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE MJZR REQUESTED DEMARCHE ON FEB 18 TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY SYG FRANCOIS BOB, WHO IS IN CHARGE
OF MINISTRY IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER. CHEIKH
SYLLA, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY'S EUROPEAN DIVISION, WAS
ALSO PRESENT.

3. AFTER CHARGE HAD MADE FEW POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL,
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(PARAS 2, 3, AND 4) BOB IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF US WAS ABOUT

TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. CHARGE REFERRED TO STATEMENT IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FEB 12 PRESS CONFERENCE AND CONTINUING US VIEW THAT WEST EUROPEANS SHOULD HOLD OFF ON RECOGNITION AS EVIDENCE THAT NO RPT NO USG DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA HAD BEEN TAKEN.

4. BOB ASKED IF MPLA HAD NOT EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH US, EVIDENTLY REFERRING TO REPORT BROADCAST EARLIER SAME DAY BY RADIO SENEGAL THAT CONGRESSIONAL AIDE HAD DELIVERED TO ASST SEC SCHAUFELER MPLA MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ASKING TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH USG IN NEW YORK, LISBON OR ELSEWHERE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. BOB ALSO COMMENTED ON US REQUEST THAT SENEGAL USE ITS INFLUENCE ON MPLA, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO END FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION IN ANGOLA. HE ASKED IF THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED MPLA WERE NOT IN CONSIDERABLY BETTER POSITION TO INFLUENCE MPLA. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT US DEMARCHE WAS BEING DELIVERED IN NUMEROUS AFRICAN CAPITALS BUT WE WERE ANXIOUS THAT SENEGAL'S INFLUENCE ALSO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE PERCEIVE AS IMPORTANT AFRICAN GOALS.

6. CHARGE COMMUNICATED POINT CONTAINED PARA 4 REFTEL THAT CUBAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE BEST ASSURANCE OF AVOIDING CONFLAGRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOB EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MPLA, WHICH DID NOT HAVE LOYALTY OF MAJORITY IN ANGOLA, WAS IN NO POSITION TO ASK CUBANS TO WITHDRAW, LEAVING REGIME EXPOSED TO SOUTH AFRICANS AND MASSES OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

7. BOB EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEMARCHE, AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE IT SAME DAY TO PRIME MINISTER (AS PRESIDENT IS OUT OF COUNTRY).

8. COMMENT: BOB SEEMED ESPECIALLY TROUBLED BY IMPLICATIONS OF FRENCH RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA, AND HE PRESSED HARD ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING US INTENTIONS REGARDING MPLA IN LIGHT
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OF OUR DEMARCHE. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED GOS' DESIRE TO BE INFORMED OF ANY IMPENDING US DECISION TO ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH MPLA OR EXTEND RECOGNITION. SINCE SENGHOR'S LEADERSHIP OF MODERATES AT ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT PLACED SENEGAL IN VANGUARD OF OPPOSITION TO MPLA'S SUPPORTERS, EMBASSY HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN SENSITIVE TO SENEGAL'S INCREASINGLY ISOLATED POSITION IN AFRICA ON RECOGNITION QUESTION AND PROVIDE GOS WITH MAXIMUM POSSIBLE BACKGROUND ON

EVOLVING US POLICY IN WAKE OF APPARENT MILITARY VICTORY
BY MPLA. EMBASSY PARTICULARLY URGES THAT WE RESPECT SENE-
GALESE REQUEST TO BE INFORMED CONCERNING ANY US-MPLA CON-
TACTS.
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